

Accountability in Arizona Charter Schools

Academic Accountability:

- Must demonstrate alignment to Arizona's Academic Standards.
- Must participate in state-mandated annual nationally norm-referenced testing program.
- Must participate in the Arizona criterion-referenced testing program, Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) in grades 3 through 8 and 10.
- Must state clear performance objectives, including percentage of mastery and provide curriculum samples with a clear crosswalk between the curriculum and the Arizona Academic Standards in their charter application before a charter can be granted.
- Subject to sanctions for non-compliance.

Financial Accountability

- Must adhere to State statutes for submission of an annual budget.
- Every charter school must submit a detailed business plan as part of their charter application.
- Must conduct an annual external audit (both programmatic and financial) with an independent certified CPA.
- Must annually demonstrate compliance with the uniform system of financial records for charter schools (USFRCS) or must demonstrate compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) if they have received an allowed exception from USFRCS.
- Must submit annual financial reports to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding funding by program for inclusion in the Superintendent's Annual Report.

General Accountability

- All charter schools must comply with all state, local, and federal laws regarding health, safety, and civil rights. This includes, but is not limited to, compliance with city and county ordinances in relation to the safety, quality, and location of their facilities.
- All charter schools must have their current Certificate of Occupancy with an E-1 rating and the current Fire Marshall's Permit on file with sponsor.
- All charter schools must comply with all provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as well as comply with any restrictions or regulations related to acceptance of federal funding for start-up or programmatic functions.
- Each charter school must submit annual demographic and ethnicity data for the Superintendent of Public Instruction's Annual Report, as well as periodic enrollment counts throughout the year by which their apportionments are adjusted.
- Each charter school is required to keep a public file of education qualifications and work experiences of all current and former teaching staff available for any parent to view.
- Each charter school is required to have a five-year contract compliance review by their sponsoring entity.
- Each charter school must submit annual school profile data by school site for Arizona School Report Cards.
- Charter school teaching staff and/or volunteers who work with students must have a fingerprint clearance card issued through the Arizona Department of Public Safety for tracking purposes.
- All charter school staff must be background checked upon employment.